

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing is respectfully requested prior to examination on the merits.

By the present amendment, the number of claims has been reduced and claims have been rewritten. The additional claim fee remitted concurrently in response to the Notice to File Missing Parts with this amendment is calculated according to the number of claims pending upon entry of these amendments. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees necessary, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Support for the present amendments can be found throughout the specification and in the claims as originally filed. No prohibited new matter has been added by the present amendment. Any subject matter that has been canceled by the present amendment is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation or divisional application directed to any canceled subject matter.

Upon examination, applicants believe that a notice of allowance will be in order and such is respectfully requested. If there are any questions concerning this application the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below so that any such matters can be promptly addressed.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: May 17, 2004

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